Letters

First with feedback

Dear Sir — In his article on the late Sir Frederic Williams (Nov./Dec. 1979 *E&P*, p.800), Dr. S. Bennett twice states that Williams was the first to use feedback to impose linear operation on an oscillator. In the interest of strict accuracy I should refer to a paper by Arguimbau[1] in early 1933 (i.e. the year before Williams went to Oxford where he started his work) on this development. Later in 1933[2] I myself described how I applied feedback control to the dynatron, for the production of highly linear oscillators with very stable amplitude and frequency, and included outline circuits of signal generators and beat-frequency oscillators which I developed using in each case a pair of such feedback-controlled dynatrons.

Now that the history of electronics is extending beyond human life span, origins tend to get lost! — Yours faithfully,

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1 ARGUIMBAU, L.B.: 'An oscillator having a linear operating characteristic', *Proc. IRE*, Jan. 1933, **21**, pp.14-28
2 SCROGGIE, M.G.: 'Applications of the dynatron', *Wireless Engr.*, Oct. 1933, pp.527-540